

COUNTDOWN TO THE CARSON CENTER **(A Short History)**

What do you think of when you think of the month of July? For many people, this month means some time spent on vacation, taking off to the lake, sitting under the air conditioner, or finding some other way to relax. For the past few years, July has meant anything but relaxation to some area churches of Christ. July has meant that it is time for the area-wide gospel meeting.

A few years ago, a sister in Graves County approached her elders and preacher with an idea. Some might even call it a challenge. As I understand the story as it was related to me, she wondered why the Lord's people had to spend all of their money for evangelism in other locations and why we could not have some quality television advertising in our area.

Her idea led to some meetings in which various ideas were proposed and explored. Ultimately, it was decided to try to raise funds from churches of Christ in the WPSD-TV viewing area for two purposes.

One purpose was to produce and air some commercials on WPSD. Brother John Myer was then preaching for the church in Bardwell, Kentucky and he agreed to film, edit, produce, and do everything else required to produce the commercials.

The other objective was to try to have an area-wide gospel meeting each year at a "neutral site." It was decided to use some sort of public facility in order to try to interest as many non-Christians as possible.

Another decision that was made was to "rotate" the oversight of this effort each year. This was done in order to keep people from thinking that this was the work of any one particular congregation.

For the first three years, the oversight and the location of the area-wide gospel meeting has been in Graves County. The elderships which have overseen this work have been from Lebanon, Northside in Mayfield, and Spring Creek. Each gospel meeting has been at the Graves County High School Gymnasium.

Sometime toward the end of 2005, the elders at Central were asked to assume the oversight for this year. It was thought that, in order for this to be truly area-wide, a congregation in some county other than Graves County should be selected for this responsibility.

Now, it's our turn! A lot of "leg work" has already been done. A lot will still need to be done. Let's not let the people down who have worked so hard to get this to this point.

Most of all—**let's not let the Lord down!** —**Jim Faughn** (edited)